

UPI - 42

(STUDENTS)

WASHINGTON -- A MASSACHUSETTS REAL ESTATE MAN TESTIFIED TODAY THAT HE VOLUNTEERED TO BE AN UNDERCOVER AGENT FOR THE FBI AND THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY WHILE TRAVELLING WITH A GROUP OF AMERICAN STUDENTS ILLEGALLY VISITING CUBA.

THE WITNESS, BARRY HOFFMAN OF BROOKLINE, MASS., TOLD A PACKED HEARING OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON UN-AMERICAN ACTIVITIES THAT HE ACCOMPANIED THE STUDENT GROUP WITH GORDON HALL, A NATIONAL AUTHORITY ON EXTREMIST GROUPS.

HOFFMAN, 26, SAID THAT HE AND HALL VISITED THE TWO SECURITY AGENCIES BEFORE THE GROUP'S JUNE 25 DEPARTURE AND OFFERED THEIR COOPERATION.

HOFFMAN WAS THE FIRST WITNESS AT THE SESSION. AN ANTICIPATED DEMONSTRATION AGAINST THE HEARING HAD NOT MATERIALIZED BY 10:43 A.M. BUT MORE THAN 200 PERSONS WERE CROWDED INTO THE HEARING ROOM.

MANY OF THEM APPARENTLY WERE FRIENDLY TO FIVE OTHER SCHEDULED WITNESSES WHO WERE BILLED AS OPPOSED TO THE COMMITTEE.

ALSO IN THE AUDIENCE WAS GEORGE LINCOLN ROCKWELL, HEAD OF THE AMERICAN NAZI PARTY, AND NINE OF HIS FOLLOWERS -- EIGHT YOUNG MEN AND A GIRL.

ROCKWELL AND HIS "TROOPERS" WERE DRESSED IN CIVILIAN CLOTHES RATHER THAN THE ORGANIZATION'S BROWN SHIRTS. ROCKWELL AND HIS FOLLOWERS CAUSED NO DISTURBANCE AS THEY SAT DOWN IN FRONT ROW SEATS.

EXTRA POLICE WERE ASSIGNED TO THE HEARING AFTER CHAIRMAN EDWIN K. WILLIS, D., LA., SAID HE HAD BEEN ALERTED TO BE ON GUARD AGAINST A HOSTILE DEMONSTRATION IN THE BIG HOUSE CAUCUS ROOM.

9/12 -- JDI113A ED

BARRY HOFFMAN, A VOLUNTEER FBI AND CIA UNDERCOVER AGENT WHO JOINED SOME 50 AMERICAN STUDENTS IN VIOLATING A STATE DEPARTMENT BAN ON TRAVEL TO CUBA THIS SUMMER, TESTIFIED TODAY THAT ABOUT A DOZEN OF THEM WERE MEMBERS OF AN ORGANIZATION IDENTIFIED AS A COMMUNIST "SPLINTER GROUP."

HOFFMAN, 26, A BROOKLINE, MASS., REAL ESTATE AGENT, TOLD THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON UN-AMERICAN ACTIVITIES THAT THE STUDENTS MADE NO SECRET OF THE FACT THAT THEY BELONGED TO THE ORGANIZATION, WHICH IS CALLED THE PROGRESSIVE LABOR MOVEMENT.

COMMITTEE COUNSEL ALFRED M. NITTE DESCRIBED THE ORGANIZATION AS A "COMMUNIST SPLINTER GROUP" FORMED IN 1962 BY "NEO-TROTSKYITES."

HOFFMAN SAID THEY WERE MET AT THE AIRPORT IN BOTH LONDON AND PRAGUE BY U.S. EMBASSY REPRESENTATIVES.

HE SAID THE AMERICAN DIPLOMAT IN PRAGUE SEEMED "QUITE EMBARRASSED" WHEN MANY OF THE STUDENTS "MERELY IGNORED HIM AND WALKED AWAY" WHEN HE TRIED TO ADVISE THEM THEY WOULD BE VIOLATING THEIR COUNTRY'S TRAVEL BAN TO CASTRO'S REGIME.

HOFFMAN TOLD CONGRESSMEN THAT THE AMERICAN STUDENTS WENT TO CUBA THE LONG WAY BY FLYING TO WESTERN EUROPE, THEN TO PRAGUE WHERE THEY BOARDED A CUBAN AIRLINER FOR HAVANA.

UPON ARRIVAL IN PRAGUE, HE SAID, THE CUBAN AMBASSADOR CONGRATULATED THEM "ON HAVING DEFIED THEIR GOVERNMENT."

9/12 -- JDAGE 1156A

HOFFMAN SAID THE CUBAN FEDERATION OF STUDENTS WAS THE OFFICIAL HOST FOR THEIR VISIT TO CUBA AND SUPPOSED PAID ALL THE BILLS, ALTHOUGH HE SAID HE DOUBTED THE FEDERATION HAD THAT MUCH MONEY. THE TRAVEL TAB ALONE TO WESTERN EUROPE MUST HAVE BEEN \$30,000, HOFFMAN SAID.

HOFFMAN SAID HE FELT SURE THE MONEY HAD TO COME FROM THE CUBAN GOVERNMENT.

NITTLE, ATTORNEY GENERAL, SET OFF A BURST OF LAUGHTER THROUGHOUT THE HEARING ROOM WHEN HE ASKED HOFFMAN: "THEN YOU ARE SUGGESTING THIS CUBAN FEDERATION OF STUDENTS IS A FRONT FOR THE CASTRO REGIME?"

CHAIRMAN EDWIN E. WILLIS, D., LA., SCOWLED AT THE AUDIENCE AND GAVE A SHARP RAP OF HIS GAVEL. HE WARNED THAT HE WOULD STAND FOR NO DISTURBANCES OF ANY SORT FROM SPECTATORS.

9/12 -- GE 1205 P

HOFFMAN SAID THE REAL PURPOSE OF THE VISIT WAS TO "BREAK THE U.S. TRAVEL BAN" AND NOT TO SEE THE COMMUNIST COUNTRY FOR THEMSELVES.

HOFFMAN CHARACTERIZED MANY OF THE STUDENTS AS "PRO-COMMUNIST ORIENTED" AND SAID MOST OF THEM HAD ALREADY MADE UP THEIR MINDS ABOUT CUBA BEFORE THEY LEFT THE UNITED STATES ON JUNE 25.

THE ADVERTISED PURPOSE OF THE TRIP WAS TO ALLOW AMERICAN STUDENTS TO SEE CUBA FOR THEMSELVES RATHER THAN RELY ON U.S. GOVERNMENT AND AMERICAN PRESS REPORTS.

HOFFMAN RELATED ONE INCIDENT IN WHICH HE SAID SOME OF THE STUDENTS "CHEERED" WHEN A FILM THEY WERE WATCHING SHOWED A U.S. PLANE BEING SHOT DOWN IN SOUTH VIET NAM.

"THESE WERE NOT ORDINARY STUDENTS," HOFFMAN TOLD THE COMMITTEE.

HE SAID THE ENTIRE GROUP MET CUBAN PREMIER FIDEL CASTRO ONLY ONCE. THE WHOLE PERIOD OF ABOUT TWO-AND-A-HALF HOURS WAS DEVOTED TO CASTRO'S PLAYING PING PONG WITH MEMBERS OF THE DELEGATION, HOFFMAN SAID.

ON ANOTHER OCCASION, CASTRO WENT ON A SKIN-DIVING OUTING WITH A FEW OF THE LEADERS BUT "THAT WAS MOSTLY FOR FUN," HOFFMAN SAID. HE STATED THAT THE STUDENTS NEVER TALKED SERIOUSLY WITH CASTRO ABOUT CUBAN AFFAIRS AND HAD LITTLE CONTACT WITH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS.

9/12 -- JD 1233 P ED

HOFFMAN TOLD THE COMMITTEE THAT HE WENT ON THE TRIP ON BEHALF OF GORDON HALL, WHO HE IDENTIFIED AS A NATIONAL AUTHORITY ON EXTREMISTS, GROUPS INCLUDING "COMMUNISTS", "NAZIS AND FASCISTS." HE SAID HALL ASKED HIM TO MAKE THE TRIP BECAUSE HE BELIEVED THE GROUP TO BE "PRO-COMMUNIST ORIENTED."

HE AND HALL VISITED THE FBI AND THE CIA BEFORE HOFFMAN DEPARTED, THE WITNESS TESTIFIED. HE SAID THEY OFFERED THEIR COOPERATION TO THE TWO SECURITY AGENCIES. HOFFMAN DID NOT ELABORATE ON HIS WORKING ARRANGEMENT WITH THEM.

HE SAID, HOWEVER, THAT HE KEPT IN TOUCH WITH HALL BY PHONING HIM PERIODICALLY AND USING A SET OF "PRE-ARRANGED SIGNALS."

THE MORNING SESSION ENDED WITHOUT SERIOUS INCIDENT. THE COMMITTEE RECESSED FOR LUNCH UNTIL 2:15 P.M.

9/12 -- JD 1244 P ED

HOFFMAN TOLD THE COMMITTEE THAT CASTRO GAVE SOME ADVICE TO THE AMERICAN STUDENTS.

HE SAID IF THEY WERE PROSECUTED FOR BREAKING THE U.S. TRAVEL BAN, THEY SHOULD SEND DOWN "A COUPLE HUNDRED MORE" STUDENTS DURING THE TRIAL TO DRAMATIZE THEIR PLIGHT TO THE WORLD.

HOFFMAN TOLD THE CONGRESSMEN THAT AMERICAN STUDENTS ARE "GOING TO REPEAT THESE TRIPS" AND THAT COMMUNIST OFFICIALS IN CUBA SAID THEY COULD HANDLE VISITS BY "SEVERAL THOUSAND AMERICANS, AND NOT ONLY STUDENTS, BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR."

BUT HOFFMAN SAID ALSO THAT CUBAN OFFICIALS TOLD THEM FUTURE GROUPS SHOULD PAY THEIR OWN EXPENSES BECAUSE IT WOULDN'T LOOK GOOD FOR THE CUBAN GOVERNMENT TO BE FOOTING THE BILL.

MENTION OF FUTURE TRIPS PROMPTED CHAIRMAN EDWIN E. WILLIS, D., LA., TO COMMENT THAT THIS WAS THE REASON HIS COMMITTEE WAS HOLDING HEARINGS. HE INDICATED THERE WOULDN'T BE ANY FUTURE TRIPS TO CASTROLAND WITHOUT SEVERE PENALTIES IF CONGRESS HAD ANYTHING TO SAY ABOUT IT.

9/12 -- GE 126 P

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HOFFMAN SAID THE 50 ODD AMERICAN STUDENTS WHO WENT THIS SUMMER WERE BRIEFED BY THEIR OWN LEADERS ON SOME OF THE DIFFICULTIES THEY MIGHT FACE UPON THEIR RETURN, INCLUDING QUESTIONING BY THE FBI AND THE HOUSE COMMITTEE.
9/12--GE126P

HE SAID ONE STUDENT WARNED ESPECIALLY ABOUT THE HOUSE COMMITTEE AND QUOTED HIM AS SAYING: "THEY MAY BE THE SCUM OF CONGRESS, BUT DON'T UNDERESTIMATE THEM."

THE HOUSE GROUP ALSO WAS DESCRIBED THAT DAY AS A "BUNCH OF HACKS." HOFFMAN'S COMMENT BROUGHT LOUD APPLAUSE FROM ONE LARGE SECTION OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE AUDIENCE. THE COMMITTEE'S MEMBERS STARED BACK AT THEM IN STONY SILENCE.

HOFFMAN SAID THE STUDENTS ALSO WERE ADVISED HOW TO HANDLE FBI AGENTS. A SAMPLE: "IF YOU ARE A WOMAN ON THE STREET, SCREAM IF YOU WANT TO GET RID OF THEM."

HE SAID AN EXAMPLE ALSO WAS MADE OF THE AMERICAN COMMUNIST AND FAMOUS NEGRO SINGER, PAUL ROBESON, WHO THE STUDENTS WERE TOLD USED TO ANSWER CONGRESSIONAL QUESTIONS WITH LONG LECTURES ON U.S. FOREIGN POLICY.

HOFFMAN SAID THE CUBAN GOVERNMENT MADE A MOVIE OF THE U.S. STUDENTS' TRIP TO CUBA AND THE PLAN WAS TO "SMUGGLE" IT INTO THE UNITED STATES SO IT COULD BE SHOWN ON UNIVERSITY CAMPUSES TO RAISE MONEY TO DEFEND THE STUDENTS FROM ANY GOVERNMENT LEGAL ACTION.

HE SAID PROPAGANDA LITERATURE WAS GIVEN TO THEM IN HUGE AMOUNTS AND THE CUBANS, REALIZING THEY COULDN'T CARRY IT ALL BACK TO THE UNITED STATES WITH THEM, SUGGESTED THEY PUT IT INTO SEPARATE BOXES. "WE'LL SEE TO IT YOU RECEIVE IT," HE QUOTED THEM AS SAYING, ADDING THAT HE THOUGHT THESE ALSO WOULD BE SMUGGLED INTO THE COUNTRY, PERHAPS THROUGH CANADA.
9/12--GE149P

HOFFMAN SAID HE THOUGHT THE REAL PURPOSE OF THE CUBAN STUDENT TRIP WAS TO BREAK THE TRAVEL BAN AND MAKE IT TOUGH FOR THE UNITED STATES TO ENCOURAGE OTHER NATIONS TO ENFORCE SIMILAR RESTRICTIONS ON TRAVEL BY THEIR CITIZENS TO CUBA.

OTHER OBJECTIVES, IN HIS VIEW, HE SAID, WERE TO EMBARRASS THE UNITED STATES AT HOME, PROVIDE COMMUNIST PROPAGANDISTS WITH MATERIAL TO USE THROUGHOUT LATIN AMERICA AND DEVELOP U.S. "MOUTHPIECES" FOR CUBAN PROPAGANDA.

WILLIS HAILED HOFFMAN'S TESTIMONY AS "A CONTRIBUTION TO THIS COMMITTEE AND ULTIMATELY, THEREFORE, TO YOUR COUNTRY."

AS HE LEFT THE WITNESS STAND, AN UNIDENTIFIED MAN STEPPED UP TO HIM AND SNAPPED: "HOW DO YOU SLEEP AT NIGHT AND LIVE WITH YOUR CONSCIENCE?" HOFFMAN POINTED A FINGER AT HIM AND REPLIED ACIDLY: "HOW DO YOU LIVE WITH YOURS?"
9/12--GE151P

FOLLOWING HIS APPEARANCE, HOFFMAN EXPRESSED HIS ANNOYANCE AT THOSE IN THE AUDIENCE WHO HAD PARTICIPATED IN THE FEW OUTBURSTS AND HAD CHEERS AT THE MENTION OF WILLIAMS' NAME.

"THEY'RE JUST LIKE THE WHITE STUDENTS IN ALABAMA WHO ARE SCREAMING AT THE NEGROES ENTERING SCHOOL THERE," HOFFMAN TOLD REPORTERS. "BOTH TYPES HURT THE UNITED STATES."

HE SAID THAT WHILE EVERYONE MIGHT NOT AGREE WITH THE COMMITTEE'S PROCEDURES-- "AND I'M NOT AN EXPERT ON THE MATTER"--HE SAID IT HAD A "LEGITIMATE LEGISLATIVE INTEREST IN THIS SITUATION."
9/12--RG203PFD



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

2430 E STREET, N. W.
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

18 September 1963

TO: Committee on Un-American Activities
House of Representatives
Washington 25, D. C. Attn: Mr. McNamara

FROM: John S. Warner
Legislative Counsel
Telephone:

FORM 3-62 1533 OBSOLETE PREVIOUS EDITIONS.

TRANSMITTAL SLIP

DATE
12 September 1963

TO: Mr. John Warner

ROOM NO. 7D 01	BUILDING Hq
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REMARKS:

Per our telecon.

HCUA *[Signature]*

FROM: , Acting Asst. to DCI

ROOM NO. 1F08	BUILDING Hq
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